

Executive Summary

Introduction

The health and economic effects of cigarette smoking are well documented and include excessive rates of chronic diseases, substantial health care costs, reduced productivity, and premature death. The purpose of this report is to describe the health and economic burden of cigarette smoking in Wisconsin.

Methods

This report estimates the health and economic impact directly related to cigarette smoking using the most current version of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Smoking Attributable Mortality, Morbidity and Economic Costs (SAMMEC) software program. In addition, this report uses the literature's latest estimates of mortality due to secondhand smoke exposure. These two estimates together provide the total burden of tobacco in Wisconsin – both its direct and indirect effects. Technical notes are provided at the end of the report for information on the data sources and methods used in this report.

Results

The health and economic toll of cigarette smoking continues to be significant in Wisconsin. An estimated 7,215 people died from illnesses directly related to smoking, and approximately 853 died from illnesses and fires indirectly related to smoking — resulting in over 8,000 tobacco-related deaths annually. With nearly 16% of all annual deaths in Wisconsin directly attributable to cigarette smoking, and \$2.16 billion paid in direct health care costs, most Wisconsin residents are, or will be, affected by cigarette smoking at some point. Given that over one million people continue to smoke cigarettes in Wisconsin, including an estimated 85,000 youth, cigarette smoking will continue to be both a health and economic burden for the state. Programs and policies to prevent and reduce the number of people who smoke cigarettes are the most effective way to eliminate this burden.

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